

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 05062 140247Z

72

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2630

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 5062

USIAC

FOR: IOP/MEDIA REACTION; IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - ROC MEDIA LAUDED NIXON'S DECISION TO RETIRE, CONGRATULATED PRESIDENT FORD ON TAKING OFFICE, EMPHASIZED CONTINUITY OF FOREIGN POLICY STRESSED BY NEW ADMINISTRATION BUT EXPRESSED ANXIETY ABOUT SHORT-TERM POLITICAL CHANGEOVER. MEDIA USED MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S COMMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL CHANGE AND NIXON POLICY TOWARD PRC TO HIT AT ACCOMMODATION WITH COMMUNISTS AND WARN U.S. OF DANGERS IN FURTHER RAPPROCHMENT WITH PEKING. END SUMMARY.

2. ROC PRESS, TV AND RADIO VIEWED U.S. PRESIDENCY CHANGE WITH FEELINGS OF RELAXATION THAT A UNIFIED AND HARMONIOUS U.S. UNDER FORD ADMINISTRATION CAN BE TRUSTED TO CONTINUE THE PRESENT POLICY TOWARD BOTH TAIPEI AND PEKING BUT
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 05062 140247Z

EXPRESSED SOME ANXIETY OVER THE QUICK PACE OF U.S. POLITICAL

CHANGEOVERS.

3. ONLY UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) CARRIED FULL TEXT OF NIXON RESIGNATION ADDRESS ADAPTED FOR LOCAL TERMINOLOGY REGARDING PRC. ALL PAPERS AND TV NETWORKS LAUDED NIXON FOR HIS "RESOLUTE RETREAT" FROM HIGH OFFICE AS A SELF-SACRIFICING GESTURE IN ORDER TO KEEP AMERICA'S THREE-POWER DEMOCRACY INTACT.

4. CHINA TIMES (280,000) BLAMED THE "RELENTLESS PARTISAN AND MEDIA ONSLAUGHT AND VITUPERATION" FOR NIXON'S DOWNFALL WHILE CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (220,000) HAILED THE QUIET AND UNEVENTFUL TRANSITION OF U.S. GOVERNMENT IN SUCH A POLITICAL UPHEAVAL AS THE SIGN OF A WORKABLE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. "HOW MANY HEADS WOULD HAVE FALLEN SHOULD THE SAME HAVE HAPPENED IN A TOTALITARIAN COUNTRY?" CDN ASKED.

5. CHINA POST (ENGLISH LANGUAGE; 30,000) SAID NIXON HAD "NEVER CONTEMPLATED DESERTION OF THE ROC" ALTHOUGH HE COMMITTED MISTAKE IN FAILING UNJRSTAND "TRUE NATURE OF COMMUNIST AGGRESSION."

6. WITH CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT FORD'S "LOYAL, OPEN, HONEST, SQUARE AND POSITIVE" PERSONALITY AND THE "QUALITIES OF STEADINESS AND CAUTIOUS CONSERVATISM," PAPERS PLAYED UP AMBASSADOR SHEN'S MEETING WITH STATE DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWING CHANGEOVER TO RECEIVE ASSURANCE OF CONTINUING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. COMMENT ALSO INCLUDED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN TO THE SAME EFFECT AS DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR UNGER.

7. STRESSING PRESIDENT FORD'S KEEN AWARENESS OF CHINESE COMMUNISTS' ULTIMATE AIM OF WORLD REVOLUTION AS VOICED BY HIM IN A 1972 AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING, PAPERS SAID FORD IS "A RESPECTED FRIEND OF THE ROC PEOPLE," RECOUNTING HIS VISIT TO THE ROC IN AUGUST 1953 IN A GROUP OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS. HOWEVER, CHINA NEWS (ENGLISH LANGUAGE, 20,000) HOPED FORD "WILL SCRUTINIZE AND QUESTION ANY FURTHER MOVES WHICH WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 05062 140247Z

JEOPARDIZE THE FREE EXISTENCE OF" THE ROC EVEN THOUGH "WE DO NOT EXPECT AN ABOUT-FACE IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY." OLD FASHIONED HONESTY IN PRESIDENT FORD IS WHAT THE ROC NOW LOOKING FOR, PAPER ADDED.

8. MADAME CHIANG IN A RARE INTERVIEW WITH CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY THE DAY AFTER NIXON'S RESIGNATION OPENLY CRITICIZED THE STATEMENT THAT "UNLOCKING" OF THE DOORS TO MAINLAND

CHINA AS CITED BY NIXON WAS A MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENT. SHE SAID THE ERROR WAS VIVIDLY TESTIFIED TO BY NONE OTHER THAN LORD MICHAEL AND LADY LINDSAY AND ALFRED JENKINS WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN MAINLAND CHINA FOR A REASONABLY LONG TIME.

9. MADAME CHIANG WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "COULD ANYONE WITH A MODICUM OF INTELLIGENCE EVER HONESTLY THINK THAT ESTABLISHING FORMAL RELATIONS WITH A REPRESSIVE REGIME CAN MEAN THAT THE CHINESE PEOPLE ON THE MAINLAND WILL TURN INSTANTLY FROM BEING 'ENEMIES' INTO 'FRIENDS' OF THE U.S.? I SAY CATEGORICALLY THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS INSTANT FRIENDSHIP AS THERE IS INSTANT COFFEE... CLEARLY CONTEMPORARY HISTORY HAS SHOWN THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DID A GREAT DISSERVICE TO THE... AMERICAN PEOPLE."

10. SUPPORTING MADAME CHIANG EDITORIALY, CHINA NEWS MAINTAINED THAT "THE QUESTION WHICH NOW ARISES, AND WHICH MADAME CHIANG DOUBTLESS HAD IN MIND, IS WHETHER PRESIDENT FORD WILL PUT ON THE SAME BLINDERS THAT KEPT NIXON FROM SEEING THE TRUTH."

11. MAJOR CHINESE LANGUAGE PAPERS ECHOED THE REFRAIN, SAYING THE GREAT MISTAKE IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD COMMUNIST CHINA WAS A RESULT OF MIXING THE MAOIST REGIME WITH THE ORDINARY CHINESE PEOPLE WHO WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR TRUE SENTIMENTS UNDER TYRANNICAL MAOIST RULE. THE PAPERS URGED THE NEW U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PAY KEEN ATTENTION TO MADAME CHIANG'S ADVICE AND BE CAREFUL AND WISE ENOUGH TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ENEMIES AND FRIENDS.
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